

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of configuring a measurement task on a protocol tester comprises the steps of:

- a) displaying a problem field on a display device, the problem field having a plurality of network elements for a telecommunication network;
- b) graphically activating one of the network elements;
- c) displaying a plurality of measurement tasks on the display device which are possible with respect to the activated network element;
- d) graphically selecting one of the measurement tasks; and
- e) entering parameters level by level in lower levels starting from a level of the activated network element, with the parameters not specified by the user being occupied by standard values.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the problem field is displayed as a visual network plan.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the problem field is displayed as a pop-up menu.

4. The method according to claims 1-3 wherein the activated network element is selected from the group consisting of a node and an interface.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the measurement task is selected from the group consisting of monitoring, call tracing, simulation, emulation, statistical evaluation of signalling flows, recording, conformance test, regression test, load test and error tolerance test.
6. The method according to claim 5 further comprising when monitoring is selected as the measurements task the step of specifying at a next level which interfaces to monitor.
7. The method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of specifying on the next level which protocols to monitor.
8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the network elements, including the measurement task, the interfaces, and the protocols which are eligible for configuration of the measurement task, in a visually different way on the display device than network elements still purchasable or network elements which are not offered or network elements purchasable online.
9. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of specifying in the configuring of the measurement task a protocol that contributes to solving the measurement task, with the configuring being made via graphical selection from the group consisting of a check box, a combobox and a pop-up menu.

10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of selecting different versions of the selected protocol by graphical selection from the group consisting of the check box, the combobox and the pop-up menu.

11. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of executing configuration of the protocol tester hardware-wise according to the configured measurement task.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein the standard values are predetermined in the protocol tester.

13. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of during the selection of the measurement task offering previously configured measurement tasks on the display device for selection.

14. The method according to claims 1 or 13 further comprising the step of during the selection of the measurement task offering previously configured measurement tasks on the display device for modification.

15. A protocol tester for configuring a measurement task comprising:
 means for displaying a problem field, the problem field having a plurality of network elements for a telecommunication network;
 means for graphically activating one of the network elements;
 means for displaying a plurality of measurement tasks which are

possible with respect to the activated network topology element;

a storage device in which standard values for parameters are stored, which standard values may serve for the configuration of the measurement task; and

means for graphically selecting one of the measurement tasks; and

means for entering further parameters level by level in lower levels starting from a level of the activated network element, with the parameters not specified by the user being occupied by standard values.